

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been presented for examination. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 11-15 have been cancelled, and claims 6, 9, and 10 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 16 remain at issue. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner contends that the previously added limitation of claims 1 and 5, wherein the axially and radially rigid tubing prevents buckling which is described as, "virtually [eliminating] significant contact with the interior of the tubing and essentially [eliminating] friction over the tubing length," raises new matter issues since the specification as originally filed does not support these limitations.

In response to the §112 rejection, Applicant submits the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 5 which replaces the words "virtually eliminating" with the word "reducing." In addition, Applicant's amendment replaces the words "essentially eliminating" with the word "minimizing." Claims 1 and 5 as amended are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. The specification at page 16, lines 4-6, describes the advantages Applicant's invention has over a conventional Bowden cable for the elimination of buckling upon the application of tension to the interior flexible cable. The disclosure states, "Elimination of this buckling further reduces contact of the cable with the interior diameter of the tube and serves to further minimize friction on the cable."

The Examiner made no rejection of the previously amended claims under 35 USC §102 or §103. The Examiner does, however, make certain art of record which, though not relied upon, is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The new art relates to cable guide tubes that reduce friction. Applicant agrees that the new art deals with the type of problem recognized in Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully points out, however, that each of the new art references addresses the friction problem in an entirely different manner from Applicant's invention and, accordingly, these references are not relevant to the patentability of Applicant's claims as amended.

In particular, Davidson, US 5,636,551; Nawa, US 4,915,340; and Pickles, US 3,851,351 each address the friction between a flexible cable housing and the interior cable by lubricating the interface between the outer housing and the inner cable. In Davidson, the "lubrication" is accomplished by applying a layer of Teflon filler between the wire strands of the cable and the

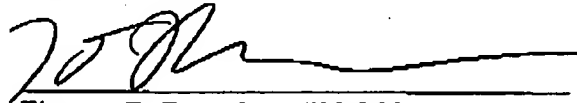
outer housing (column 3, lines 3-15). In Nawa, a similar reduction in friction is accomplished by encasing the inner cable in a heat shrinkable synthetic resin covering (column 2, lines 41-50). Pickles accomplishes friction reduction by surrounding the flexible inner cable with a plastic filler tube (column 3, lines 5-11).

Goldenberg, US 5,681,131, the fourth patent suggested as being pertinent to Applicant's disclosure, deals with an apparatus for feeding cable through metal conduits. This patent does not appear to have any teaching concerning the reduction of friction in a Bowden cable type assembly.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits the claims as amended are allowable over the art of record and reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant requests that this amendment after final rejection be accepted. If it would be helpful to obtain favorable consideration of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call and discuss this case with the undersigned.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and an authorization to charge all fees therefore to deposit account number 19-5117 if not otherwise specifically requested. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any required fees not included or any deficiency of fees submitted herewith to be charged to deposit account number 19-5117.

Respectfully submitted,



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